



The Statesman is Changing... Here's Why

September 2017

Students Travel
Abroad to Study
and Teach

Bulldog of the Month:
Student Body President
Mike Kenya

Summer Recap:
Here's What's New
on Campus

Black Bear's Search
For Food Leads
Into City Limits

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ANDREW REVKIN

Andrew Revkin has written on a range of subjects including destruction of the Amazon rainforest, sustainable development and climate change (particularly as it affects the North Pole environment). In December, he became senior reporter for climate and related issues at *ProPublica*, an independent investigative newsroom. Before that, he was a reporter for *The New York Times* from 1995 through 2009 and wrote the *Dot Earth* environmental blog for the *Times Opinion Pages* from 2010 to 2016.

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STUDENTS TRAVEL ABROAD TO STUDY AND TEACH

By: Idun Rasmussen

Some people dream of studying abroad for years, but never end up doing it. This summer, the UMD Study Abroad office had 172 students travel internationally through their study or teach abroad programs. Three UMD seniors fulfilled their dreams by studying or teaching abroad in Belize, China and Crete this summer.

In May, Lexi Weihe, a UMD senior studying GIS and urban studies, traveled to Belize with 12 other students and two instructors. Weihe said that the trip made her realize how much we all take for granted.



"I learned and experienced what unconditionally loving and respecting one another, our lands and our communities means, even when you have little to nothing," Weihe said.

"They judge their social class by how happy and content they are, not by how rich they are. It was amazing to experience."

For three days during her trip, Weihe stayed with a host family in the village of Aguacate. Weihe said that this was an experience she will never forget.

"My host family was so wonderful and it was amazing to be immersed in the culture by being able to stay in their home," Weihe said. "They just live such a different life than us as Americans do."

Another UMD senior, Elizabeth Frandle, had the experience of speaking the language of her host country. Studying international studies, political science and Chinese area studies, Frandle decided to travel to China this summer with another UMD-organized trip.

"There's something amazing about speaking to another person in their native tongue, especially when it isn't your own native language," Frandle said. "It felt like I was able to truly connect with them, so it was pretty surreal every time I spoke to someone randomly."



Frandle said that it's difficult to sort through and describe all the valuable lessons she learned during her time in China.

"One of the biggest things was more personal, and that was just feeling more confident about myself and my language abilities," Frandle said. "I also learned that there are some things that cross all cultures and languages between people, so that was pretty amazing too."

Willow Huber, also a UMD senior, spent the summer teaching in Crete. Huber, a political science major with an outdoor education minor, described her experience in Crete as being difficult at times, but very dear.



"Being able to adapt to having no idea what's going on was really hard," Huber said. "I learned some Greek while I was over there but it was still hard to communicate at times. I just had to always trust that I was going to be taken care of by my host family, whether or not I knew what was going on."

Huber taught English to students of various ages, and could see big changes in the students' English skills in the five weeks she spent there.

"Watching my students learn and enjoy learning English was the most amazing feeling," Huber said. "I had a couple of very young students who came to me knowing no English. By the end of the class one of them was working really hard to say full phrases without any help. Seeing that much dedication from a six-year-old warmed my heart."

**“BACK IN MY DAY
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ALL THE HILLS
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BULLDOG OF THE MONTH: STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT MIKE KENYANYA

By Kevin Ott

As a high school student, Mike Kenyanya was not involved in leadership. When he was a senior in high school, his friend who was a freshman representative for Student Association (SA) at UMD convinced him to attend the SA session at Bulldog Welcome Week.

There, he fell in love with the group, and now serves as Student Body President in his junior year at UMD.

"I think everyone sees problems and room for improvement, but I would rather work on it then talk about it all day," Kenyanya said. "This is my avenue to try to affect change."

A management information systems major, Kenyanya was born in Kenya and moved to Minnesota with his family when he was five-years-old. He spent most of his life in Maple Grove, Minnesota, and was drawn to UMD because of the size and accessibility of the campus.

"It's really easy to get in contact with administrators and other representatives of UMD," Kenyanya said. "It truly feels like a community."

In his past two years as a member of SA, Kenyanya has been a part of several policy changes, as well as advocating for funding. Some examples include changing university sexual assault policy, advocating for the new chemistry building and delaying lawn parking enforcement.

One issue Kenyanya cares about in particular is improving the amount of mental health resources at UMD. He and other members of SA succeeded in receiving more funds for that purpose last year.

"I have to give credit to the Twin Cities campus SA for starting the work on getting more funding for mental health resources," Kenyanya said. "We were later able to jump in and pick up on that momentum."

While Kenyanya has played a role in influencing change on campus, he still sees plenty of room for improvement. One thing he aims to improve while president is the campus climate, and hopes to address that with the new Diversity and Inclusion director position, which was established last year. Elected by leaders within the Multicultural Center, the Diversity and Inclusion director is an SA member that makes sure student voices of all ethnicities and backgrounds are heard.



Photo by: Mueez Ahmad

"I see my job at SA as supporting the different functions and helping them do their job better," Kenyanya said. "We hope this new position can help improve that."

**"This is my
avenue to
try to affect
change."**

Mike Kenyanya

Kenyanya is following former Student Body President Nathan Ernst. One of Ernst's favorite qualities about Kenyanya is his passion.

"Mike is a really great people person with a lot of passion," Ernst said. "He has the ability to connect with people on a personal yet professional level, and that will serve him very well in his new position."

Ernst believes that his ability to connect with people, as well as his proven track record, makes him a great fit as student body president.

"I was really lucky to work with Mike during his first two years in UMDSA, and I could tell from early on that he was the type of leader capable of helping the student body," Ernst said.

The UMD Student Association is the official recognized voice of the student body. Kenyanya encourages all students to stay engaged with what SA is doing and attend meetings if they wish.

"Few people know and understand that every student that pays a student service fee is automatically a member of UMDSA," Kenyanya said. "We are here to represent you -- this is your SA."

SUMMER RECAP: HERE'S WHAT'S NEW ON CAMPUS

By Sam Church

Whether you are a returning student, or an incoming first year, some things around campus will look different.

The school has successfully funded the new Chemistry and Materials Science building, and construction started on July 11. The current chemistry building was built in 1948 and was intended to hold around 300 students. The department currently has about 5,500 students.

The new building is being built on the Maroon B parking lot, eliminating about 300 spots. The incoming Swenson College of Science & Engineering Dean Andrea Schokker noted that adding a new space for students will create new opportunities for learning.

"The CAMS building is an ideal example of a facility that provides modern space for state of the art training and research that's so critical to our students' education and our region's economy," Schokker said.



The Transportation Services office moved from Kirby Plaza offices to a newly built space in the Kirby Plaza bus hub. Maroon and white parking permits are sold out this year.

The College of Liberal Arts and Labovitz School of Business and Economics are both introducing new minors this year. CLA has updated its digital writing minor to digital writing, literature and design. This new minor has less required core classes and more opportunity for electives. LSBE's new minor, sustainable business and organization, focuses on helping students increase their knowledge of sustainability for the betterment of growing companies.

In addition to the two new minors, Swenson College of Science & Engineering is introducing a new undergraduate program, engineering physics. The program

is currently seeking accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. and would be one of only 21 accredited engineering physics programs, according to Marc Seigar, Associate Dean of SCSE

"This is going to be a unique program for Minnesota," Seigar said. "It isn't offered anywhere else in the state."

The School of Fine Arts has introduced a new dean, Dr. Robert Kase.

Dr. Kase is a grammy-nominated musician as well as a performer and educator. Dr. Kase is replacing the former dean Bill Payne. Payne will still be around as he plans to rejoin the UMD Theatre Department.

"I truly look forward to working with this remarkable college to help them create some amazing art," Kase said about his new role.

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The Statesman is Changing... Here's Why

By Ellie Gerst

For 70 years, the Statesman has been the Statesman.

In 1947, the campus newspaper officially changed its name from the Fortnightly Chronicle to the Duluth Statesman (which later evolved to the UMD Statesman).

The name "Statesman" was chosen from a host of student submissions, according to an article found in our archives, and was selected for its "conciseness, applicability and originality."

Mary Miller, a junior majoring in biology, was awarded \$5 for submitting the winning name out of 132 submissions.

That was in 1947. In 2017, we did something similar and posted a Google form online which allowed people with a U of MN email address to submit name ideas for our rebranding. We received 131 submissions.

70 years later, we had almost the exact same number of responses. This is partly why we are changing. Over the past several decades UMD has had a huge increase in enrollment and yet the number of students engaging with campus news appears to have stayed the same.

In the fall semester of 2016, students in the Social Media Strategies course at UMD conducted a campus survey. One of their questions was "Are you familiar with The UMD Statesman?" 46.4 percent of students responded "no."

Essentially, there is an issue with the Statesman's visibility and engagement on campus. This is a much bigger problem than just our brand, but the name "Statesman" does not resonate with UMD students as it has no relevance to our campus and no connection to our current students.



So the question I had to ask myself when taking over the role as editor-in-chief is this: How can we improve our relevance on campus if our very name does not identify with our target audience?

More research ensued. The Statesman archives in the library proved to be even more enlightening than expected. 1947 was not the only time the name of our news organization was changed.

In 1973, Judy Cavanaugh was hired as the first female editor-in-chief of the Statesman. That fall semester, she changed the name of the Statesman to the "Statesperson." She also wrote an article about her thoughts on why the name needed to change to be more inclusive.

"In the case of the STATESMAN,

I believe the name to be an example of the subtle forms of sexual discrimination that pervade this society," Cavanaugh wrote. "These subtle forms have effects that are not so subtle. For instance, if you are a woman, and you see only men doing positive political activity and hear only about 'statesmen' and 'congressmen' what effect does that have on your own possible political activity?"

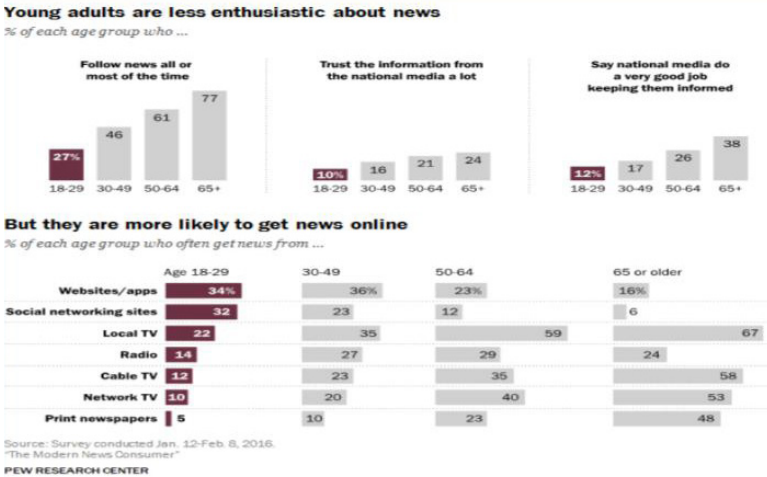
However, the new name did not last long. The Board of Publications voted to retain the name "Statesman."

Now, despite differing opinions on the way our language encompasses gender and sex, it is a fact that as the campus news organization, our purpose is to serve as the voice of the students. 5,185 UMD students identify as female, according to UMD's 2016 Student Profile. If any portion of them feel that the name of their student news organization excludes them, then it is worth considering a change.



The reason that this change is happening and happening now, is because the Statesman is making another transition.

Journalism is swiftly evolving. With the continual advancement of the internet and social networking platforms, the way people consume news is changing. Our target audience is college students. As shown in the table below, people aged 18-29 are getting their news online and on social media. If our goal is to be engaged with our readers and to provide them with relevant, accurate information in a timely manner, then that's where we need to be.



The Statesman is evolving into a digital-first, multimedia organization. After transitioning from a traditional newspaper format to a monthly news magazine last year, now is the perfect time to concentrate on our online presence.

This year we will continue to publish our monthly news magazine, while also posting content daily on our website and a variety of social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

We are pushing ourselves to not only improve our reporting, but also to experiment with the way we present the information we gather. We hope to achieve this by producing more videos, podcasts, infographics, interactive maps,

photography and increase our overall interaction with students.

Rebranding is simply a way to help us transition into our new focus, reconnect with our audience and give our new organization a more fresh and modern feel.

To the Statesman alumni who feel that their history might be forgotten in this change, I would argue the opposite. Because of the groundwork that you laid out in your time here, you enabled progress for both our school and our organization. Expecting the Statesman to remain the same forever would be denying it the opportunity for growth. However, Statesman archives will be protected at all costs, as will the legacy of the people who built it into what it is today.

This move towards a new organization has not been taken lightly. We have met with numerous students and faculty on and off campus to include a diverse community of voices in the discourse surrounding this change. Our new name has been selected based on student submissions and positive feedback from our test groups.

We believe that the new name is concise, applicable and original, as "Statesman" was in 1947. We also believe that it brings a fresh and upbeat take on our identity as UMD students.

Name aside, we are looking forward to continuing to improve the quality of our reporting and the presentation of our stories, and hope to be a source of accurate, timely and relevant information for everyone here at UMD.

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BLACK BEARS' SEARCH FOR FOOD LEADS INTO DULUTH CITY LIMITS

A search last spring inside Lester Park led to a beautiful front-paw print, shown to the scale of an average human hand.



By Connor Shea

Staff at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Duluth office have a bear of a problem on their hands.

This summer, Martha Minchak, Assistant Wildlife Manager at Duluth's DNR office, said they received an "average amount" of bear-related complaints. While it is favorable that the bears are not showing intrusive behavior, Minchak also pointed out that their food may be more scarce this fall.

"It's still a bit early, but the levels of naturally occurring food are in the fair to poor range," Minchak said. "I expect there to be a slight uptick in bear complaint calls over the fall."

According to Minchak, some Duluth residents have become accustomed to seeing black bears right outside their window.

When I first got here, the bears were described to me as the neighborhood pack of dogs," Minchak said. "They chased the garbage truck around, finding trash and eating it in front of you."

Trash, you ask? It's the goods for bears in Duluth.

"We know for sure that mothers have taught their cubs that this is what you eat in Duluth. If you are a bear in Duluth, you eat trash and birdseed," Minchak said.

In Minchak's experience, residents consider bears as more of a nuisance than a threat, taking down birdfeeders and other attractants.

"More seasoned residents tend to be quite used to them," Minchak said. "Newer citizens, such as students, might view the sight of the average black bear as something they can't believe."



Assistant Area Wildlife Manager Martha Minchak stands in front of the DNR's Rice Lake Road office.

While some might assume the problem only to be in the woodier areas, Martha has had disturbance calls from the industrialized US Steel area on the west end to the residential Lester-Lakeside neighborhoods on the east.

"I keep track of the problem areas in the city, so if we're getting calls on the east end of Duluth and calls on the west side, it's a good sign that we're not dealing with the same bears," Minchak said.

Dave Garshelis, the Minnesota DNR's foremost bear researcher, has some words of wisdom for anyone wanting to keep a nuisance bear away from their property.

"The most important thing is to keep attractants away, things such as birdfeeders and trash," Garshelis said. "Keep garbage bins inside, and only take them out when it's garbage day."

While these may be good tips, Minchak believes that a collective effort is needed for real success.

"If one of us does that, the bear just goes away from you. If we all did that, then maybe it would become less and less of a problem," Minchak said.

If you do not want to call the DNR or have a recurring problem, Minchak also gave some tips on removing a bear from your own yard.

"Make some kind of noise. let them know that they are not welcome," Minchak said. "If they are not responding to vocal intimidation, try and throw something (such as a tennis ball) at them."

Do not injure the bear. Shooting it with a paintball gun or other non-lethal (and lethal) object is not legal inside city limits. Spray it with a hose."

Although some might not know what to do with a bear on their property, Minchak believes most residents are prepared and informed.

"It says an awful lot about the people of Duluth, and a lot about these bears, that we have not had some serious bear - human incident," Minchak said. "People are really dang tolerant. We are living in a city where you can see anything walk through your backyard."

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